



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 January 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports the Department of Energy's semiautonomous National Nuclear Security Administration will launch a security review at nuclear facilities nationwide, in February. (See item [2](#))
- CNN reports that after four days of disruptions caused by security concerns, British Airways flight 223 from London to Washington was again delayed Sunday. (See item [7](#))
- Reuters reports the Department of Agriculture announced on Friday that another U.S. cattle herd in Washington state is under quarantine, bringing to three the number placed under a "state hold order" since the first U.S. case of mad cow disease was announced on December 23. (See item [16](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 02, Environmental News Network* — **Countries undecided on how to store nuclear waste.** Since the start of the nuclear era, highly radioactive waste has been crossing continents and oceans in search of a secure and final resting place. Nearly all countries produce nuclear waste, some types of which can remain radioactive for thousands of years, but they cannot agree on the best way to store it. **At present highly radioactive waste is put into interim**

storage where it has to sit for 30 to 40 years for its radioactivity and heat production to decline. It is still hazardous and should be stored somewhere permanently. In many countries it is unclear who will pay for the cost divided over hundreds, even hundreds of thousands of years. Utilities could end up with a bigger bill than expected. **Most high-level waste, the most dangerous kind, is spent fuel from the over 400 nuclear power reactors in more than 30 countries. The dismantling of nuclear weapons adds to the pile.** Even nuclear-free states produce waste from industry, hospitals providing radiation therapy, and research centers. Experts say technology exists for secure underground deposits, which could last millions of years. Most countries plan to seal the highly hazardous waste in containers and store it 1,640 to 3,280 feet underground. Skeptics say it could be safe for decades or even centuries, but at some point it would be bound to leak or be attacked by terrorists.

Source: http://www.enn.com/news/2004-01-02/s_11697.asp

2. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Nuclear officials to review security.** Worries about security lapses at some of the nation's top-secret nuclear weapons labs have prompted the federal agency that maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile to review procedures at facilities nationwide. **The Department of Energy's semiautonomous National Nuclear Security Administration, (NNSA) which oversees nuclear weapons programs within the department, is sending a team of inspectors to launch the security review in February.** The action follows NNSA initiatives last summer, after some in Congress complained about specific security breaches at several facilities. In July, the NNSA announced new plans to reinforce safeguards with added security experts, more frequent surveillance, a review of past studies and investigations and creation of a commission and separate panel for more long-range planning. The NNSA is responsible for maintaining the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, for promoting international nuclear nonproliferation and for providing nuclear propulsion systems for the Navy's submarines and aircraft carriers.

Source: http://www.news-journal.com/news/content/news/ap_story.html/Washington/AP.V8110.AP-Nuclear-Lab-Sec.html:COXnetJSessionID=11wda1fVFuhVJXcapKj5GmTvIAI6ChSJXdKiRk5yN0twgwVkdqUN!104927771?urac=n&urvf=10730825253440.14666409229649802

3. *December 31, Richmond Times-Dispatch, VA* — **Seven electric co-ops to open service areas to competition.** Seven electric cooperatives in Virginia are opening their service territories to competition from other suppliers tomorrow, the final step in the state's two-year process of deregulating power-generation service. **This transition will give about 168,500 customers served by the rural co-ops the option to choose their power provider, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) said. About three million Virginians have the ability to choose their supplier, since utility providers began opening their markets to competition on January 1, 2002.** But that does not mean those customers have much of a choice. Competition has been slow to catch on in Virginia, which has traditionally had relatively low electric rates. Although utilities such as Dominion Virginia Power, Allegheny Power and Connectiv have opened their service areas to competition, only 2,228 customers are buying electricity from a competitive supplier, the SCC said.

Source: <http://www.energycentral.com/centers/news/daily/article.cfm?aid=4481308>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *January 02, Financial Express India* — **Ministers clear decks for Safta.** Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc) have cleared the decks for signing of a South Asian free trade agreement (Safta), an additional protocol on terrorism during the January 4–6 summit of the seven–nation grouping. **The 11–page document provides for measures to curb terrorist funding and money–laundering.** The protocol brings together all the undertakings that member–countries have already entered into under the UN Security Council resolution 1373, which embodies the international resolve to fight terrorism, and various other agreements. It will be a supplement to the 1987 Saarc convention on suppression of terrorism.

Source: http://www.financialexpress.com/fe_full_story.php?content_id=49687

5. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Senators question Treasury office's ability to block terrorist funding. The Treasury Department agency charged with stopping the flow of terrorist money is under scrutiny from key lawmakers after twice failing to freeze the assets of people identified as terrorist financiers by U.S. allies.** Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R–IA, and Sen. Max Baucus, D–MT, sent a letter just before Christmas citing widespread concerns about sloppy record keeping and lax enforcement inside Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). **Though an internal investigation in 2002 recommended OFAC make changes to ensure it has the legal authority to make sure banks are blocking the assets of sanctioned terrorists, the agency hasn't taken steps to do so, according to the letter. OFAC plays a key role in the war on terrorism. It is charged with freezing the bank accounts and other financial assets of countries, companies, and individuals who are deemed enemies of the United States.** Based on orders from Congress and the President or just raw intelligence, OFAC names people to a "specially designated nationals" list that requires all financial institutions to block their money.

Source: <http://www.saukvalley.com/304802103370105.bsp>

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Transportation Sector

6. *January 04, Associated Press* — **Official: Swiss banned airline.** The Egyptian charter company whose plane crashed into the Red Sea killing 148 people had been banned from

flying to Switzerland for more than a year because of technical problems, a civil aviation official said Sunday. "A series of safety shortcomings showed up in a plane of Flash Airlines during a routine security check at Zurich Airport in October 2002," said Celestine Perissinotto, spokesperson for the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Aviation, confirming Swiss and French television reports. Egyptian Aviation Minister Ahmed Shafeeq called the charge "baseless." Perissinotto told The Associated Press that she was unable to go into detail and did not know what type of plane had problems in Switzerland, but that she understood the company had two airliners. The plane that crashed after takeoff from Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, Saturday was a Boeing 737. Everyone on board was killed. Most of the passengers were French tourists.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/01/04/crash.switzerland.ap/index.html>

7. *January 04, CNN* — **BA flight 223 delayed again. After four days of disruptions caused by security concerns, British Airways (BA) flight 223 from London to Washington was again delayed Sunday, an airline spokesperson said.** U.S. officials wanted more information from British Airways about the flight, which caused a delay of more than an hour from its planned departure from Heathrow at 3:05 p.m. (10:05 a.m. ET), spokesperson Karen Franklin said. When asked for details about the kind of information sought by U.S. officials, Franklin would only describe it as "additional security information." Flight 223 has been the subject of recent aviation security concerns. Wednesday, U.S. fighter jets escorted the flight to Dulles, and it was canceled Thursday and Friday. U.S. and British officials said concerns involving the heightened terror alert in the United States were behind the focus on Flight 223. **The officials said intelligence from an informant and other sources involving the flight number suggested the flight could be a terrorist target. Several other international flights also have been affected in the past two days by the security concerns, but none more so than Flight 223.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/01/04/flight.cancel/index.html>

8. *January 02, The Macomb Daily (MI)* — **Woman surprised by relaxed border security.** Without trying, Kelli LaRosa put America's homeland security to the test. **LaRosa was stunned to discover Tuesday morning that her license plate was missing, apparently stolen from her SUV the previous evening during a trip to Windsor, Ontario. Then, the St. Clair Shores resident was shocked when she pondered the idea that she had passed through Customs at the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel with no questions asked.** She later called police to report her license plate stolen and called Customs to complain about slipshod security. "The port director spoke with the inspector and the inspector was satisfied as to her identification," said Cherise Miles, a public affairs officer for the Bureau of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. But LaRosa said she showed no proof of citizenship — no birth certificate or passport. **As each car approaches a Customs booth, the license plate is immediately scanned and corresponding data is fed into the agent's computer, which indicates the name of the car's owner and other law enforcement red flags, such as a stolen vehicle.**

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=10739115&BRD=988&PAG=461&dept_id=141265&rft=6

9. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Second flight from Mexico City to Los Angeles canceled over security fears.** Flight 490 had been scheduled to take off at 6:55 p.m. on Thursday but was canceled at the request of the Department of Homeland Security, said Aeromexico spokesperson Rosalie Huerta. An Aeromexico flight with the same number was canceled Wednesday. **Thursday's flight was canceled after U.S officials said they were concerned it**

might be a safety risk, said Agustin Gutierrez, a spokesman for President Vicente Fox. Wednesday's flight was canceled under similar circumstances. With both cancelations, U.S. officials did not explain why they felt the flight was a risk, Gutierrez said. About 150 passengers scheduled to depart on Thursday's flight 490 were reassigned to several other flights. Under an agreement reached with the United States, Mexico began sending armed security agents last week on some flights to the United States. Mexico also is in talks with Canada about putting guards on board flights to that country. The agents form part of the Special Operations Group of the Federal Preventive Police and use weapons with special ammunition designed to avoid a loss of pressure in airplane cabins when fired.

Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/7620324.htm>

10. *January 02, Portsmouth Herald World News (NH)* — **Many ports and ships miss deadline for security plan.** Terror strikes from the sea could be even more catastrophic than those from the air, intelligence officials say. They fear a hijacked oil tanker could be rigged with explosives or a radioactive dirty bomb could be smuggled ashore in a shipping container. **But almost 5,000 ships and about four out of every five of the nation's ports, ferry terminals and fuel-chemical tank farms failed to meet a Wednesday deadline for submitting security plans showing how they will deal with those potential threats.** Security measures to prevent attacks at seaports and inland waterways have fallen far behind efforts to protect airports and airplanes since the 2001 terrorist attacks. **Congress last year ordered the maritime shipping industry to tighten security amid fears that an attack on a port could kill thousands, cause tremendous property damage and cost tens of billions of dollars in lost revenue to the U.S. economy.** Coast Guard officials said the deadline for submitting the plans was met by about 5,200 of 10,000 ships told to submit them and only 1,100 of 5,000 port facilities — despite a potential fine of \$25,000.

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/01022004/world/68233.htm>

11. *January 02, Associated Press* — **U.S. leads way to plug leaks in the security of ports, ships.** With commercial ships transporting 80 percent of the world's traded goods, security experts worry that vessels, ports and other links in the maritime economic chain might make tempting targets. A terrorist attack could sink a ship, cripple a port, panic markets and disrupt world trade. **In addition, a rising trend in piracy compounds concerns. "The possibility of terrorists linking up with pirates to hijack commercial vehicles containing ... liquid natural gas or liquid petroleum gas and crashing it into a port is of great concern to Singapore"** and other maritime nations, said Singapore's deputy prime minister, Tony Tan. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will introduce this month a "smart box" program to make containers more tamperproof by encouraging shippers to use electronic sensors that show if anyone has opened a container's doors.

Source: <http://www.heraldnet.com/Stories/04/1/2/17965014.cfm>

12. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Terror threats disrupt multiple flights. Terror concerns prompted the disruption of more than a half-dozen New Year's holiday flights, as U.S. authorities tightened the air safety net around the country with flight cancellations, airline searches and fighter jet escorts for some planes.** British Airways canceled its third flight in 24 hours between London and Washington's Dulles International Airport, after a New Year's Eve incident in which one of its jetliners was kept on the tarmac outside Washington for hours as FBI and Homeland Security officials questioned passengers. Two flights between Mexico

and Los Angeles, one Wednesday and one Thursday, were canceled for similar reasons. And a New York-to-Paris Air France jetliner made an unscheduled landing in the Canadian Maritimes on New Year's Day because of security concerns. Officials comparing luggage and passenger lists discovered there was unaccompanied baggage aboard the Air France plane, which landed so the bag could be removed before it resumed its way to France about four hours later, officials said.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/bal-flight0102.0.7617448.story?coll=sfla-home-headlines>

13. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Passenger tries to enter cockpit.** A passenger on a Northwest Airlines flight from Detroit to Honolulu was subdued and arrested after he tried to enter the cockpit, officials said. State deputy sheriffs arrested the 31-year-old Tennessee man after Flight 923 landed at Honolulu International Airport on Thursday, Hawaii Department of Transportation spokesman Scott Ishikawa said. The incident does not appear to be related to terrorism, the FBI said. Jennifer Marty, a spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration, said the man said he "needed to get to the cockpit." **The FBI identified the man as Brandon Gabriel Rines. He is being held at the federal detention center next to the airport and likely will appear before the U.S. magistrate Friday in Honolulu to face a charge of interfering with a flight crew, according to an FBI statement.** The man had flown from Knoxville, TN, to Detroit before catching the flight to Hawaii.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/sns-ap-unruly-passenger.0.4910037.story?coll=ny-nationalnews-headlines>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *January 02, DM News* — **USPS delays Merlin start. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has pushed back the date for its next round of Merlin implementation to January 17.** The USPS had said last month that it would begin using its Mail Evaluation Readability and Lookup Instrument, or Merlin, to validate address accuracy January 1 despite concerns from some mailers. Merlin will analyze barcode digit strings and check for "gross" address accuracy errors. Merlin will sample all mailings of letters or oversized envelopes that exceed 10,000 pieces and about one in six mailings of less than 10,000 pieces. The USPS said that it will allow a one percent tolerance for some address accuracy errors, but no tolerance for the incorrect use of ZIP+4 codes 0000 or 9999. The postal service said it changed the date to January 17 because some employees at bulk mail acceptance units that will run the machines may have been out for the holidays and not given a chance to train on the new system.

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=26054

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Agriculture Sector

15. *January 03, Farming Life* — **Take-all disease. Scientists in the U.S. have recently screened hundreds of different bacterial strains to find potential natural biological controls for**

Take-all, a fungal disease that demolishes wheat harvests around the world. The fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *tritici* (Ggt) spreads take-all, which causes wheat roots to turn black and die. **The disease can reduce yields by 50 percent or more, costing wheat growers major problems in a bad year.** Daniel Roberts, a microbiologist with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), screened large numbers of diverse bacteria for their ability to suppress Ggt. Roberts found several candidate bacterial strains that were worthy of further testing. He then applied these strains to wheat seeds. Low levels of Ggt were also added to the seeds to ensure the presence of the disease. **After three years of testing and approximately 400 candidates, Roberts and his colleagues found four bacterial strains that show promise as Take-all bio controls.** Scientists will test these four bacterial strains separately and in combination with commonly used wheat pesticides this year in field trials. If these trials find that one or more of the bacterial strains are effective, then work will begin to develop a formulation of beneficial bacteria that can be integrated into pest management strategies.

Source: http://www.farminglife.com/flnews/content_objectid=13775986_method=full_siteid=51658_headline=-Taking-Wheat-Away-from-Ta-ke-all-Disease-name_page.html

16. *January 02, Reuters* — **Third cattle herd now under quarantine. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on Friday that another U.S. cattle herd in Washington state is under quarantine, bringing to three the number placed under a "state hold order" since the first U.S. case of mad cow disease was announced on December 23.** Two Washington state herds were quarantined last week, soon after the diagnosis of mad cow in a Holstein dairy cow. A third dairy herd in the state was quarantined earlier this week, USDA Chief Veterinarian Ron DeHaven told reporters on Friday. "Three facilities are under state hold orders," he said. The USDA has been trying to pinpoint the location of 81 animals believed to have been imported from Canada with the infected cow in 2001. "We now have 11 of them accounted for," DeHaven said. **"The whereabouts of the remaining 70 animals have yet to be confirmed."** Nine of the animals believed to have crossed the border from Canada with the infected cow were already quarantined. USDA investigators found another cow living in a dairy herd in Washington state, DeHaven said. The 11th animal is the infected cow.

Source: <http://news.myway.com/top/article/id/375378|top|01-02-2004:: 12:05|reuters.html>

17. *December 31, Oster Dow Jones News* — **Japan plans to send BSE delegation. Japan is planning to send food safety officials to the U.S. sometime in January to monitor progress of the investigation into the case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad-cow disease, discovered in Washington State, a Japanese official said.** Ryosuki Ogawa, an official with Japan's Department of Food Safety, told OsterDowJones in a telephone interview that Japan requested permission to visit during a December 29 meeting in Tokyo with David Hegwood, a trade specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There is no doubt in Japan that the USDA is working diligently to find out the circumstances behind the U.S. case of BSE, he said, but stressed that food safety and other agriculture agencies there want to experience the U.S. efforts first-hand. Japan, the largest export market for U.S. beef, banned it immediately upon the USDA announcement that a BSE case was found. Japan imported 122,142 metric tons of beef from the U.S. in the first five months of 2003, a 22 percent increase from 99,997 tons in the same time period of 2002. Ogawa said the exact dates of the visit still haven't been decided yet, but will be determined soon.

Source: http://www.cropdecisions.com/show_story.php?id=22918

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Food Sector

18. *January 04, Knight Ridder News Service* — **Food-borne diseases quietly take heavy toll on public. The toll from food-borne disease is 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths in the United States each year, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates.** Salmonella, for instance, caused 32,000 confirmed illnesses last year, and many times that number probably were sickened by the bacteria but never had tests to confirm it. Campylobacter, a bacteria associated with raw or undercooked poultry, causes about two million cases of diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting each year, and sometimes causes life-threatening infections or triggers rare immune-system responses. Listeria monocytogenes, a cold-loving bacteria found in ready-to-eat lunchmeats and hot dogs, causes about 2,500 illnesses a year, and most of those people are so ill they are hospitalized. About 500 will die, the CDC estimates. **From 1998 through 2000, nearly 109 million pounds of meat and meat products were recalled in the United States for problems ranging from contamination with dangerous bacteria to undercooking of ready-to-eat foods.**

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?tl=1&display=rednews/2004/01/04/build/nation/55-food-diseases.inc>

19. *January 01, Associated Press* — **Frozen french fries prefried in beef tallow held.** Fallout from the mad cow scare in Washington state has hit the potato industry, with more than \$500,000 worth of frozen French fries, prefried in beef tallow, held in limbo at ports. **The delay raises concerns that other exports containing beef products could be affected by the bans countries have imposed on U.S. beef because of mad cow disease.** More than 35 countries have imposed bans on U.S. beef imports. French fries and other potato products are prefried in beef tallow or vegetable oil by the manufacturer before they are frozen and shipped. They are then fried again before being served. Most products fried in beef tallow are exported. **At least 60 containers of frozen potatoes have been delayed at Northwest and Asian ports. Each container can hold about 40,000 pounds of frozen potato products.** Potato processors and growers in the Northwest depend especially on Japan's large export market. The other largest export markets for fries include Mexico, China, Korea, and Taiwan, all of which have acted to ban U.S. beef.

Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/2737117/detail.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

20. *January 03, Reuters* — **U.S. buys millions in anthrax shots. The Department of Defense has announced a \$29.7 million order for anthrax vaccine based on the assumption that a federal judge's ban on mandatory inoculations will be reversed.** The move demonstrates confidence "we will resume the anthrax vaccination program as it existed before the judge's order," said Bryan Whitman, a Defense Department spokesman. On December 22, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan barred the Pentagon from "inoculating service members without their consent." In a preliminary injunction, he ruled the vaccine used in the Pentagon's mandatory program was an "investigational drug" being used for what was an unapproved purpose. The Pentagon said the next day it would administer the vaccine only on a voluntary basis until the legal issues were sorted out. On Tuesday the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said the anthrax vaccine was safe for use in protecting U.S. troops against inhaled exposure to the bacteria. The Bush administration then asked the court to lift the ban on mandatory shots. Anthrax is considered the top biological weapon threat. It can be transmitted in three ways, through inhalation of the spores, into a cut in the skin, or by eating contaminated meat. Inhaled anthrax is by far the deadliest form.
Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/s1019739.htm>

21. *January 02, China Daily* — **Virus variation found in suspected SARS case. The results of a gene sequencing test show the coronavirus found in the suspected Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) case in Guangzhou is a virus variation with new sequence, according to the Center for Disease Prevention and Control in southern China's Guangdong Province Friday evening.** That's to say, it is possible that the man with the suspected case of SARS in the province has contracted SARS, according to the center. Using the method of reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT–PCR), scientists obtained S, M, and N genes of coronavirus from the suspect. Comparing the sequences of the gene section with all those of the SARS coronavirus published by the international gene bank, experts found that 98.8 to 99.4 percent of 3,768 bases of S gene obtained from the suspect, 99 percent of 658 bases of M gene, and 99 percent of 1,068 bases of N gene, are isogenous with those of S, M, and N genes published by the gene bank. **"The results point to the possibility that the patient is infected by SARS coronavirus, but our sequence test shows that the S gene is a new sequence that has not been published,"** said Chen Qiuxia with the center.
Source: http://www1.chinadaily.com.cn/en/doc/2004-01/02/content_2954_23.htm

22. *January 01, Reuters* — **Prevalence of multidrug-resistant bacteria rising. The prevalence of Salmonella bacteria resistant to many antibiotics rose five-fold between 1998 and 2001, according to a new report.** In 2000, there was a surge in the rates of the "Newport" strains of Salmonella, especially one called the "Newport–MDRAmpC." These bacterial strains are resistant to many antibiotics, including amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, cephalothin, cefoxitin, and ceftiofur. Amita Gupta, from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and colleagues conducted a field investigation in the New England states that identified the emergence and patterns of infection with new strains of Newport–MDRAmpC. **The prevalence of Newport–MDRAmpC among Salmonella Newport bacteria isolated from humans living in Massachusetts increased from zero percent in 1998 to 53 percent in 2001, the authors report.** Among all Newport–MDRAmpC isolates nationally, the prevalence of ceftriaxone resistance increased from 0.5 percent to 2.4 percent during the same interval. The researchers determined that infections with Newport–MDRAmpC were acquired in the U.S. and were more likely to occur among people who have been around a dairy farm. Visiting,

working on, or living on a dairy farm increased the risk of infection by multidrug-resistant Salmonella Newport by 12-fold.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=4063900>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *January 02, Associated Press* — **State is first to get terror plan approved.** Kentucky is the first state to get federal approval for a three-year homeland security training schedule, state officials announced. **The approval will allow Kentucky to spend about \$1.5 million in federal dollars to increase its ability to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks, biological emergencies and natural disasters, state officials said Wednesday.** It was approved last month by the Office of Domestic Preparedness. The plan calls for conducting a series of exercises in each of the state's 14 emergency management districts, said Harry James, a planner for Kentucky's weapons of mass destruction response team. Each district would conduct about five exercises by the end of 2006. The Office of Domestic Preparedness was created in 1998 in response to the bombings of the World Trade Center and the federal building in Oklahoma City, state officials said. In 2003 it was transferred from the Justice Department to the Department of Homeland Security.

Source: http://www.glasgowdailytimes.com/articles/2004/01/02/local_news/news18.txt

24. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Gas leak forces 30 to evacuate.** About 30 evacuees from the south Louisiana community of Grand Bayou, who were forced from their homes on Christmas because of an underground natural gas leak, may learn early next week when they can return. **Tests indicated the gas was coming from a crack in the casing of an underground gas storage well. The crack was an estimated 1,450 feet below the surface, according to officials in Assumption Parish.** Well control specialists worked Thursday to plug the leak at a point below the crack. The most optimistic estimates were that the work would be complete by Sunday or Monday. Meanwhile, Gulf South Pipeline Co., which leases the well from Dow Chemical, was drilling four other wells in the area to control the release of leaked gas that was bubbling up from underground. Those wells also will enable officials to monitor the flow of that gas, John Boudreaux, the emergency preparedness director for Assumption Parish, said Thursday. The well is about two miles from Grand Bayou in a sparsely populated area. The well was drilled to store natural gas in deep, naturally occurring caverns in underground salt domes.

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/state/7615998.htm>

25. *January 02, Navy Newsstand* — **U.S. Navy transfers life-saving chemical detection technology to American industry.** The non-exclusive license agreement signed by the U.S. Navy and Fredericksburg, VA-based Science and Technology Research is expected to **bolster**

homeland security by equipping American office buildings, factories, shopping malls and cruise liners with the same chemical detection technology currently used on Navy warships. The company can now manufacture and sell a basic version of the patented Shipboard Automatic Chemical Agent Detector and Alarm (Ship ACADA) to non-federal government and commercial entities. Two versions of the devices will be built under the license. One version can be installed in the ventilation systems of office buildings and other structures to monitor circulating air for chemical agents. A smaller handheld portable device will be available for emergency response crews to check air quality in the event of a terrorist attack or accidental chemical release.

Source: http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=11261

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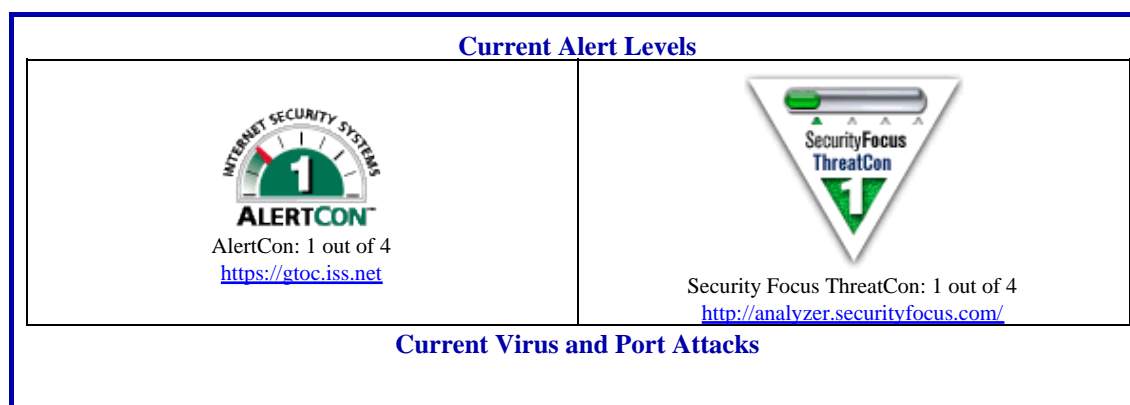
Information and Telecommunications Sector

26. *December 31, Government Technology* — On 20th anniversary of AT&T breakup in U.S., telecommunications still struggling. Telecommunications consumers in the United States have experienced an amazing array of communication options in the wake of the AT&T break-up 20 years ago on January 1, 1984. But the court-ordered divestiture and two decades of ensuing laws and rules have been a decidedly mixed bag for the telecommunications industry, according to a New Millennium Research Council report released Tuesday, December 30. The four authors of the report find that **consumers have experienced a "rocky road" over the last two decades but now benefit from a plethora of new choices on how to communicate.** However, the telecommunications industry has not been so fortunate, suffering through such developments as the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and associated regulation that are not viewed as strong policy bedrocks upon which the marketplace can flourish. In general, the authors conclude that **a dynamic telecom industry will remain one step ahead of legislators and regulators, who would be best advised to focus their attention on setting broad national policy.** The experts also find that flourishing competition in a largely deregulated environment is essential to the future of a healthy and prosperous telecommunications industry. The report is available online:

<http://www.newmillenniumresearch.org/archive/divestiture-report.pdf>

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=83184>

Internet Alert Dashboard



Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: JAVA_BYTVERIFY.A Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6129 (dameware), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 80 (www), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 137 (netbios-ns), 23 (telnet), 4000 (Connect-BackBackdoor), 21 (ftp) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

27. *January 04, Washington Times* — **False alarm evacuates U.S. Capitol. U.S. Capitol Police evacuated the Capitol Saturday after a sensor detected a possible biohazard in the Senate wing, but authorities later said it was a false alarm.** Officer Jessica Gissubel said field tests came up negative for harmful materials. **The suspected hazard turned out to be some sort of industrial solvent, police said.** Samples will be sent to John Hopkins University for further testing, police said. The sensor detected fumes in the basement of the Senate wing about 3:30 p.m. Authorities conducted tests to ensure the building was safe, Officer Gissubel said. Police evacuated the Capitol immediately after the fumes were detected. For more than four hours, several officers restricted access to the building from Delaware Avenue. Police allowed people to re-enter the building about 8 p.m., after the teams finished their investigation.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20040104-121205-9017r.htm>

28. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Threat closes New Jersey synagogue.** One of New Jersey's largest synagogues was temporarily closed and placed under police guard after a threat was made against it, authorities said. The threat was directed at Temple Emanu-El and not an individual, Union County Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow said Friday. Further details were not released. **A message on the synagogue's answering machine said that on the recommendation of Westfield police, the synagogue would be closed from December 31 through January 4 "due to heightened security concerns."** Road barriers and police cars on Friday were blocking the temple, which was founded in 1950 and serves about 1,100 families. Westfield is about 25 miles southwest of New York City.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/Northeast/01/02/synagogue.threat.ap/index.html>

29. *January 02, Voice of America* — **Norway arrests Islamic extremist leader. Norwegian authorities have arrested a leader of an Islamic extremist group based in Iraq. Norwegian officials say police picked up Mullah Krekar at his apartment in connection with a suicide attack carried out by the Ansar al-Islam group in northern Iraq.** The officials say police are searching Krekar's apartment before filing formal charges against him. Norwegian authorities describe Mullah Krekar as the leader of the radical Islamic group, which was based in the autonomous Kurdish region of Iraq near the Iranian border until dispersed by U.S. troops last year. The United States designated Ansar al-Islam a terrorist organization last February. **Norwegian officials believe the group has ties to al Qaeda and say some of its members fought in Afghanistan.** But Krekar has denied any al Qaeda ties. Norwegian authorities arrested Krekar last year on terrorism charges. But a court ordered his release in April, ruling that authorities did not have sufficient evidence to hold him.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=F163C51F-3389-40>

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